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Comment Date: February 25, 2011 14:30:54PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50247

First Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Middle Initial: [Withheld by requestor]

Last Name: [Withheld by requestor]

Organization:

Address: [Withheld by requestor]

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: [Withheld by requestor]

State:

Zip: [Withheld by requestor]

Country: [Withheld by requestor]

Privacy Preference: Withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment: GLMRIS.doc

Comment Submitted:

Please see attachement.



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

www.helpourfisheries.com

c/o 7 Bay Street
Parry Sound, ON
P2A 1S4

Date: February 25, 2011

Great Lakes and Mississippi Basin Inter-basin Study
<http://qlmr.is.anl.gov/involve/comments/index/cfm>

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Imminent Threat to Great Lakes from Asian Carp

On behalf of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, I wish to express our profound concern relating to the threat of Asian Carp invading the Great Lakes and the ensuing ecological disaster.

Members of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council are committed individuals from both the community and other environmental organizations on Georgian Bay from Port Severn to Killarney. We have a keen interest in fisheries and environmental issues and are passionate about ensuring appropriate resource management occurs in open consultation with a multitude of communities along the Georgian Bay coast and inland waters flowing into Georgian Bay. Our goal is to be an effective facilitator of community participation and voluntary efforts that foster the establishment of healthy, productive and self-sustaining natural ecosystems (http://www.helpourfisheries.com/The_Council/index.php).

Although we can appreciate the epicentre of this issue revolves around the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the magnitude and extent of ecological calamity is equal – if not greater to Canadian waters than American. Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) documents (cited below) show suitable environmental characteristics could support Asian Carp from Newfoundland to British Columbia. Notwithstanding the ecological devastation that would be wrought in the Great Lakes, this would become a beach-head for further expansion. Consequently, it is a matter of vital Canadian interest.

Our Council voices concern that we see a largely passive Canadian position that supports efforts for further study as espoused on the website of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin and Inter-basin Study (GLMRIS):

"GLMRIS will explore options and technologies, collectively known as aquatic nuisance species (ANS) controls, that could be applied to prevent ANS transfer between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through aquatic pathways.

... In this context, the term "prevent" includes the reduction of risk to the maximum extent possible, because it may not be technologically feasible to achieve an absolute solution."

<http://glmr.is.anl.gov/index.cfm>

We submit the "reduction of risk to the maximum extent possible" is a known quantity and is technologically feasible - the complete removal of the connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi watershed. We express grave concern that further study as opposed to action is likely to further enhance the risk of Asian Carp invasion of the Great Lakes.

We have reviewed the following web-pages of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to educate ourselves on what our government representatives are doing in the matter.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/Publications/article/2006/01-01-2006-eng.htm>

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/publications/article/2010/11-15-10-eng.html>

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Newsroom/LatestNews/282766.html>

We are rather perplexed: The above government documents clearly recognize the devastating ecological threat on the doorstep of the Great Lakes, but Canadian and Ontario Government action to bring pressure upon our American neighbours to prevent (not reduce the risk) this ecological catastrophe from occurring appears tepid. We can appreciate international sensitivities relating to this matter, but Canadians have an equal interest and a right to be equally assertive. We encourage GLMRIS to pursue the most effective solution to this impending environmental catastrophe – the removal of the connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Crawford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Crawford, Chair
Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council